

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 (canceled).

2 (canceled).

3 (canceled).

4 (canceled).

5 (canceled).

6 (canceled).

7 (canceled).

8 (canceled).

9 (canceled).

10 (canceled).

11 (canceled).

12 (canceled).

13 (canceled).

14 (canceled).

15 (new). A method of draining fluid from a subretinal space of an eye and performing a fluid exchange in a vitreous of said eye, comprising the steps of:

providing a vacuum source;

providing an vitreoretinal instrument, comprising:

a handle; and

a cannula coupled to said handle comprising:

a curved distal portion having a plane of curvature and a side port disposed at an angle of about 90 degrees to said plane of curvature;

a second port disposed away from said side port;

a first flexible tubing having a distal end fluidly coupled to said side port and a proximal end fluidly coupled to said vacuum source;

a second flexible tubing having a distal end fluidly coupled to said second port and a proximal end fluidly coupled to said vacuum source; and

a valve disposed on said handle for selectively opening and

closing said second flexible tubing;
grasping said handle;
disposing said cannula within said eye so that said side port is in said subretinal space and said second port is in said vitreous above said subretinal space;
actuating said valve to close said second flexible tubing;
activating said vacuum source;
aspirating fluid from said subretinal space via said side port and said first flexible tubing;
actuating said valve to open said second flexible tubing; and
aspirating said fluid from said vitreous via said second port and said second flexible tubing while continuing to perform said step of aspirating fluid from said subretinal space.

16 (new). The method of claim 15 wherein said step of disposing said cannula further comprises disposing said cannula so that a ventral surface of said cannula is closest to said retina and a dorsal surface of said cannula is closest to said choroid.

17 (new). The method of claim 15 wherein said step of actuating said valve is performed when a user of said instrument observes that a size of a retinal detachment or a retinal tear in said eye ceases decreasing due to said step of aspirating fluid from said subretinal space.

18 (new). The method of claim 15 wherein said side port prevents incarceration of said retina into said side port.

19 (new). The method of claim 15 wherein said cannula comprises a second side port disposed at an angle of about 90 degrees to said plane of curvature and opposite said first side port.

20 (new). The method of claim 15 further comprising the steps of:
disposing an infusion cannula within said vitreous; and
injecting a retinal tamponading fluid into said vitreous via said infusion cannula.

21 (new). A method of draining fluid from a subretinal space of an eye and performing a fluid exchange in a vitreous of said eye, comprising the steps of:
providing a vacuum source;
providing an vitreoretinal instrument, comprising:

a handle; and

a cannula coupled to said handle comprising:

- a curved distal portion having a plane of curvature and a side port disposed at an angle of about 90 degrees to said plane of curvature;
- a second port disposed away from said side port;
- a first flexible tubing having a distal end fluidly coupled to said side port and a proximal end fluidly coupled to said vacuum source;
- a second flexible tubing having a distal end fluidly coupled to said second port and a proximal end fluidly coupled to said vacuum source; and
- a valve disposed on said handle for selectively opening and closing said second flexible tubing;

grasping said handle;

disposing said cannula within said eye so that said side port is in said subretinal space and said second port is in said vitreous above said subretinal space;

actuating said valve to close said second flexible tubing;

passively draining fluid from said subretinal space via said side port and said first flexible tubing;

activating said vacuum source;

actuating said valve to open said second flexible tubing; and

aspirating said fluid from said vitreous via said second port and said second flexible tubing while aspirating said fluid from said subretinal space via said side port and said first flexible tubing.

22 (new). The method of claim 21 wherein said step of disposing said cannula further comprises disposing said cannula so that a ventral surface of said cannula is closest to said retina and a dorsal surface of said cannula is closest to said choroid.

23 (new). The method of claim 21 wherein said step of actuating said valve is performed when a user of said instrument observes that a size of a retinal detachment or a retinal tear in said eye ceases decreasing due to said step of passively draining fluid from said subretinal space.

24 (new). The method of claim 21 wherein said side port prevents incarceration of said retina into said side port.

25 (new). The method of claim 21 wherein said cannula comprises a second side port disposed at an angle of about 90 degrees to said plane of curvature and opposite said first side port.

26 (new). The method of claim 21 further comprising the steps of:
disposing an infusion cannula within said vitreous; and
injecting a retinal tamponading fluid into said vitreous via said infusion cannula.